

## THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN

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NEWS ITEMS, NOTICES AND REPORTS MUST BE SENT TO THE OFFICE LATER THAN THURSDAY EVENING OF EACH WEEK, IF THEY ARE TO APPEAR IN THE CURRENT NUMBER.

TRANSIENT NOTICES, FIFTY CENTS FOR EIGHT LINES, EACH INSERTION. FOR LARGER SPACE AND PERMANENT RATES, APPLY AS ABOVE.

We neglected, last week, to record our indebtedness to Dr. A. J. Wright, of Montclair, whose interest in the M. H. & L. Co. (of which he is secretary), furnished us, in advance of the late pleasant reunion, with many valuable items respecting it.

THE December Term of the Essex County Courts opened on Tuesday. Bloomfield has no representative on the Grand Jury. The number of civil cases on the list is small, and that branch of the business will be quickly disposed of. Unfortunately, the criminal list seems to grow in size every year, but if the murderer of Phoebe Paulin shall be discovered his trial may be had this term.

AFTER the Woodside burglar had been killed by Mr. Choate, there were some thin-skinned people who suggested that, as the thief was endeavoring to escape when shot, he was not actually engaged in a theft, and therefore Mr. Choate should have permitted him to run away. Such talk as that seems too absurd to require attention, but for the sake of putting that idea at rest, we will quote the language of Judge Deque in speaking of this case to the Grand Jury. The Judge said: "Mr. Choate was under no duty to allow the burglar to escape, nor was he compelled at the risk of his own life to wait and see what the purpose of the deceased was."

THE New Jersey delegation in the Forty-eighth Congress contains a great deal of new material. Mr. Brewer, of Trenton, being the only one who was a member of the last House. The Democrats will miss Hardenburg and Miles Ross, who have been in Washington for nearly ten years; and the Republicans will be weakened by the absence of Robeson and John Hill, both of whom have taken an active part in the business before Congress. McAdoo, Fiedler and Ferrell, the three Democratic members, were all in the State Legislature last year, but we find nothing in their record at Trenton which gives promise of usefulness at Washington. Wm. Walter Phelps, who returns after an absence of ten years, is a man of talent, but if his recent attempt to prevent Ex-Speaker Kiefer from receiving the compliment of the caucus nomination from his party is any indication of Mr. Phelps' discretion, it would seem that he has learned very little wisdom in the last ten years. Mr. Phelps ought to be a distinguished and valuable member, but in order to become so he will need to turn his back upon the indiscriminate praise which the New York Tribune pours out upon his most moderate efforts.

## THE PROHIBITION PARTY IN NEW JERSEY.

Mr. J. A. Richards, writing to the N. Y. Tribune, as "a member of the Executive Committee of the Prohibition party," brings out some solemn facts. He says that the recent meeting of the Temperance Alliance, at Trenton, showed that "three-fourths of the whole Assembly were avowed Prohibitionists." As an Alliance the delegates "kept their hands off politics," but in the afternoon he is "proud to say" that "the Executive Committee of the Prohibition party, composed of three-fourths of the members of the Alliance, met and adopted measures for thoroughly organizing the State, and that, too, immediately, for the Presidential and local elections next fall." Thus we see that the Temperance Alliance is a ghastly mockery and a delusion; and that the Intemperates are in the lead, and are bent on bending or breaking all other temperance sentiment to their own political shape.

We have hitherto expressed ourselves as good Republicans on such an issue as this. We regard this, and the movement among the colored men, and, in fact, every disturbing and divisive movement of this nature, as being engineered and pushed from the rear, and in the interests of the Democratic party. Sincere Prohibitionists can play out to that monkey if they choose, but it shall not be

done in our vicinity without a word of warning.

"The National" (which is another vote steered by sharpers) and the "Prohibition" tickets, polled respectively 2,900 and 4,153, or a total of 7,113 ballots—while the plurality of Leon Abbott was 6,806, and his majority only 4,901. The conclusion from these facts is plain enough—the Republican "fighting chance" of saving the New Jersey election was thrown away by two bands of fanatics.

The Democracy, as a party, never did anything for temperance, and never will. The Republicans have already done it, and, with proper handling, will do more. But now the Prohibitionists are rapidly exhausting themselves upon a barren idealism, and making things a great deal worse than ever. Like the Frenchman, who did not quite comprehend English, they will soon be in such imminent peril as to exclaim, "I will drown and nobody shall help me!"

This matter is serious; but though all the pestles and mortars of the State should operate upon the case, these men will probably go ahead and help temperance by aiding in the election of a Democratic President.

This is the outline of our little lecture on "Fools," the tickets to which we offer gratis to all fanatics, marked "admit one." The audience is certain to appear. Water will not keep them away.

The assembling of Congress has been the notable event of the week, and has especial importance in view of the fact that it precedes the election of 1884. The Senate is Republican by a bare majority, and can be depended upon to check narrow and partisan measures. The House of Representatives has a Democratic majority of about eighty votes, which is large enough to permit that party to quarrel among themselves. The Speaker, Mr. Carlisle, and all the officers of the House, are from the South, and Mr. Carlisle was elected by the votes of the free traders, and belongs to that wing of the party. The Democrats seem disposed to cease trying to profess free trade and protection at the same time, and now show up in their true colors. It will be difficult to carry Pennsylvania, New York or Ohio on a free trade platform, and Republicans will feel encouraged at the turn affairs have taken.

## THE PUNISHMENT OF CRIME.

The trial, conviction and sentence of O'Donnell in London, for the murder of James Carey, has been completed within a single week to the entire satisfaction of every fair-minded and justice-loving mind. Of his guilt there was no doubt; the deed was committed after deliberation, and with full knowledge of the consequences. His punishment will follow on December 17th, within less than a month of his appearance in the criminal's dock. In the trials for the murder of Lord Cavendish and Mr. Burke, at Dublin, last year, the convictions were almost as speedy, and the sentences and executions as prompt as in the more recent case. There is no admission of irrelevant testimony on the part of the court, no difficulty to obtain verdicts of guilty from the juries, or subsequent proceedings in higher courts to check the execution of the sentence. On the contrary, the trials are conducted with decorum, the accused man is provided with able counsel, his defense is heard, weighed and rejected.

We present these facts mainly for comparison with the slow, uncertain and nauseating records of trials at home. Passing by the case of Chisholm, with which no fault can be found, there remain in our county jail two men, imprisoned for murders committed one and two years ago. In neither case was there a doubt of the facts. Indeed, these were as well known at the time as they are ever likely to be. Yet these men are kept in suspense month after month—yes, year after year—their cases undecided, as though decision were impossible.

Away from home matters are worse. In a fit of anger Duke shot James Nutt in Pennsylvania some time ago, and a sentimental jury acquitted him of murder. That jury and the shallow sentiment that supported their verdict is responsible for the bloody hands of James Nutt, the son, who avenged his father's death, and now demands acquittal for the deed.

Frank James, the hero, Guiteau, the malicious murderer of Garfield; what comments these furnish on American legal methods, and the soft-heartedness which is not equal to a quick, frank, honest abhorrence of murder, wherever committed or under whatever specious pretences.

Then read these statistics, copied from the address of Professor Francis Wayland before the Social Science Association at Saratoga last summer.

Beginning with Massachusetts, we find that during the years from 1850 to 1882, both inclusive (omitting all cases which were not actually passed upon by juries), there were one hundred and seventy trials for murder in the first degree. Twenty-nine persons were convicted of the crime as charged. Twelve of the twenty-nine had their death sentences commuted to imprisonment for life. Sixteen of the seventeen whose sentences were not commuted were hung, and one committed suicide before the day fixed for execution. In twenty-six cases verdicts of murder in the second degree were rendered. In the neighboring Commonwealth of Connecticut, during the thirty years from January 1, 1850, to January 1, 1880, ninety-seven persons were tried for murder in the first degree. Thirteen were convicted of murder in the first degree. In six of the cases the sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life. Seven were exe-

cuted. Forty-two were convicted of murder in the second degree. Seven were acquitted on the sole ground of insanity. Nor is it sufficient to say that this is solely because of the death penalty, for the result is no better when the murderer is committed for life. The same authority says:

The medical report of the State Prison at Auburn, N. Y., for fifty years previous to 1868, gives instructive figures on this point. During this period 214 persons were committed to that prison under life sentences. Of these, thirty-four died from natural causes, eight became insane, two committed suicide, one escaped, and ten were transferred to other prisons, leaving 159 to be accounted for. Of these twenty-nine remained in the prison at the date of the report, and 134 had been pardoned; their average period of servitude having been six years and six months.

The time has come not for more lenient laws, more loopholes, more tender consideration of prisoners, but the time has come for more justice. Justice, prompt, swift, sure and ample—that alone will deter crime and frighten the criminal. Every man who may commit a murder should be taught that murder means death by hanging—no flowers, no speeches, no bravado, no tears. But this is cruel; a man should be allowed time to repent, the kindness of the community should be shown him, the influence of religion should be brought to bear upon him, etc., etc. True; these should be provided in proper ways, the man should be told the enormity of the crime, the insult to all laws human and divine; and that one who in defiance of God and man will commit a willful murder should have the manliness to walk to the gallows and bear his punishment without crying like a baby over what he so richly deserves.

In a word, all gush and sentimentality aside, crime should be made odious, and whoever despoils another of property, honor or life, should be held to have forfeited not only his liberty or life, but the respect and countenance of the community. The people who applaud a murderer or thief become partner in his deed, and will find the penalty enforced upon them in accumulated crime and misfortune.

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